Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a first configuration having a maximum allowed runtime;

increasing, by [[a]] the first configuration, the first configuration's maximum allowed runtime;

if an interrupt occurs, suppressing the increase in response to the interrupt; and

if no interrupt occurs, reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a second configuration in response to expiry of the increased maximum allowed runtime, the increased maximum allowed runtime expiring due to suppression by ~~if the first configuration, in a non-error operation and for~~ at least one of a task switch and a thread switch of a ~~, does not~~ further increase of the maximum allowed runtime.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the first configuration triggers a parallel counter to perform the increasing.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, ~~further comprising: determining whether a processing of the interrupt requires handling within the maximum allowed runtime,~~ wherein an ~~, where a determination in the determining step is that the~~ interrupt whose processing requires handling within the maximum allowed runtime ~~, the interrupt~~ is handled on a component reserved for handling of interrupts whose processing requires ~~requiring immediate~~ handling within the maximum allowed runtime and on which the first configuration is not run.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a configuration having a maximum allowed runtime;

~~determining by the configuration whether extension of the maximum allowed runtime is usable by the configuration;~~

~~responsive to a positive determination in the determining step,~~ triggering an increase, by the configuration, of the configuration's maximum allowed runtime; and

responsive to an interrupt, suppressing [[the]] an increase by the configuration of the maximum allowed runtime to respond ~~in response~~ to [[an]] the interrupt upon expiry of the maximum allowed runtime.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

increasing, by a configuration having a maximum allowed runtime, the configuration's maximum allowed runtime;

suppressing the increase in response to an interrupt; and

reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a new configuration for handling the interrupt responsive to expiry of the maximum allowed runtime.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a first configuration having a maximum allowed runtime; and

if an interrupt does not occur:

the first configuration triggering a counter reset, the counter reset increasing the maximum allowed runtime;

subsequent to the counter reset, and ~~in a non-error operation~~ for a scheduled task switch, the counter counting to the increased maximum allowed runtime without a retriggering of the counter by the first configuration; and

responsive to the reaching of the increased maximum allowed runtime, performing one of a task switch and a thread switch by reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a second configuration;

wherein, if an interrupt does occur ~~occurs~~, responsive to the occurrence of the interrupt, the maximum allowed runtime is not increased.

11. (Previously Presented) A reconfigurable unit, comprising:

configurable cells configurable with a configuration having a maximum allowed runtime, wherein the configuration is adapted to trigger a counter reset to increase its maximum allowed runtime conditional at least upon that an interrupt is not detected and processing is to continue without a thread switch and without a task switch.